

THE LANCASTER NEWS

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\$1.50 A YEAR.

BOLD BANDIT CHIEF REPORTED ESCAPED

Apparently Villa Has Disentangled Encircling Skein Being Drawn Around Him

MARCHING ON CHIHUAHUA

Rumored That He Is Marching on Chihuahua City to Persuade Carranza Garrison to Join Him.

Francisco Villa has again become a man of mystery. Almost within the grasp of the American cavalry, the bandit was reported to-day to have slipped through the next closing about him. Mexican officials in Juarez diligently sought, but got no definite word of the brigand.

El Paso, Tex., April 3.—Mexican reports had it that Villa and another band of followers were moving on Chihuahua City to persuade the garrison there to revolt and join him against the Americans. These reports, brought here by travelers, were scouted by Mexican Consul Garcia.

While the bandit's main command was scattered by the battle of Guerrero, it is believed here that Villa has several other large bodies disposed at convenient positions on the continental divide, and that Col. Dodd may come in contact with them at any time. While the search for Villa continues, Col. Dodd will seek to destroy armed bodies of Villa forces which are a constant menace to the line of American communications.

There is no light on the recent operations of the Carranza forces. What assistance the troops of the de facto government are giving Gen. Pershing is not known.

Traffic More Active

Traffic over the Mexican Northwestern railway is becoming more active since the advent of the American expeditionary forces in the Casas Grandes and Mader districts. A freight train arrived from Casas Grandes to-day and later a mixed passenger and freight train started out from Pearson, 20 miles south of Casas Grandes. Two carloads of oats and two carloads of express merchandise, shipped by private parties, but expected eventually to reach the army, made up the freight consignment. The passengers included many American returning to the interior who fled to the border after the Columbus massacre.

Reports from Mexican sources in the interior received here to-day asserted Francisco Villa had headed toward Chihuahua City and that his emissaries were attempting to influence the garrison of that town from their allegiance to the de facto government. Nothing was said in the reports of Villa's alleged injuries, an omission which helped to confirm the opinion already freely expressed on the border that the bandit's wounds were an invention of his own, reported with the intention of deceiving his pursuers.

The absence of any official news from the front since the defeat of the Villa band near Guerrero by Col. Dodd last Wednesday, has considerably dashed the hopes of those who saw in the victory the beginning of the end of the bandit's career. At the same time, it is pointed out that the American cavalrymen have a formidable task before them in searching the barren mountain wastes where Villa is supposed to have taken refuge. The fact that no further fighting has been reported is taken as an indication that the bandits have been effectually scattered by the American troopers.

Rumors Thrive

As usual in the lack of definite information, the border is again a live of alarming and sensational rumors. The majority are based on stories brought from the interior by Mexicans and a few Americans. The most circumstantial of these stories at present deals with reported defection of Col. Canzo, de Carranza's commander at Nambolito.

Canzo is the chief lieutenant of Gen. Luis Herrera, who was supposed to have defected against Carranza several days ago, a report that was vigorously denied by the officials

SOUTH CAROLINA EDITORS TO MEET

Invitation Accepted by Executive Committee

YORK, JUNE 12-15, 1916

Many Members Favored Charleston But York's Warm Invitation Presented in Person Won.

Columbia, March 31.—Special to News and Courier.—The South Carolina press association will hold its annual meeting in York, June 12-15, inclusive. The invitation of York was accepted by the executive committee in session here to-day. York's invitation was presented in person through a committee, consisting of Editor Watson Bell, of the York News; John R. Hart and two other Mr. Haris. York people backed up the invitation in every way and will entertain the press members in their homes. It is planned to take side trips to Rock Hill, Great Falls, Charlotte and adjoining places and to spend a day on the Kings Mountain battlefield.

Invitations for the meeting were extended from Charleston, Greenville, Columbia and York. The invitation from Charleston was presented in telegrams from Secretary A. V. Snell, of the Chamber of Commerce; Mayor Hyde, the Hon. R. G. Rhett, Mr. James Sottile. Many members favored Charleston, but the warm invitation presented in person by the York citizens won the day.

It was decided to leave the printing of the minutes to the Master Printers' association.

Those present at the meeting to-day were: William Banks, of the Record, president; Joe Sparks, of the State, secretary; Miss Juanita Wylie, of the Lancaster News; J. L. Sims, of the Orangeburg Times and Democrat; L. H. Wannamaker, of The News and Courier, and J. L. Mims, of the Edgefield Advertiser. W. W. Ball, of the State, and W. F. Caldwell, of The News and Courier, met with the committee by invitation.

GEORGIAN LEFT BIG FORTUNE

Savannah, Ga., April 1.—The estate of James M. Smith, Oglethorpe county millionaire, who died several months ago, is worth \$2,195,354.32, according to report filed to-day by appraisers appointed by Judge Emory Speer, of the federal district court here.

of the de facto government.

The main facts in support of Canzo's revolt are that he has not been heard from for more than a week and that he is known to have expressed strong Anti-American sentiments on several occasions. Like Herrera, Canzo has been a bitter enemy of Villa, and it is not supposed that if he has deserted the standard of the first chief he has joined the fugitive bandit, but that he has simply declared himself against any cooperation with the soldiers of the United States.

A good deal of significance is attached to the fact that while Gen. Gaviira and Consul Garcia insist that they are convinced of Canzo's loyalty, they admit that they have had no communication from him or from his immediate superior, Gen. Bertani, for some time. Up to a week ago Gen. Gaviira claimed that he was in receipt of daily telegrams from both Bertani and Canzo.

Mystery About Mexicans

There is something of a mystery attached to the movement of Mexican troops at points close to the border. It is known that large bodies of Carranza's soldiers have been removed from camps in the interior to various places within 20 miles of the international line, but no explanation has been given of these maneuvers beyond a general intimation that the de facto government is anticipating possible action by the followers of Felix Diaz, who is now considered the head of the Cientifico party.

Most of the stories brought from the interior are contradictory, especially those from Mexican sources. American refugees agree generally in describing conditions as alarming, but they invariably refused to be quoted, on the ground that they expected to return to Mexico and are afraid of arousing prejudices against them. Their stories are offset by the fact that several of their number who fled across the border after the Columbus massacre, have returned to their former homes convinced that they have nothing to fear.

THOUSANDS HERE FOR FIFTH ANNUAL FIELD DAY

Colossal Celebration a Great Success—
Every School in County Represented

Lancaster Graded School Scores Most Points

Craigsville School Wins Loving Cup Offered by Robinson & Lathan to Rural School Scoring Highest

Lancaster county's fifth annual Field Day, held Friday, March 31, at the county seat, brought together one of the largest crowds ever assembled in Lancaster, estimated at between five and six thousand people. Nearly every school in the county was represented, with an unusually large number of schools participating in the contests. Early in the morning wagons, buggies, and automobiles, filled with children and their chaperons, from all over the county, began to arrive and later came the special train from Camden, bringing people from Oakhurst, Kershaw, Heath Springs, Pleasant Hill, Elgin and other points along the railway. At about 9:30 a. m. a line of march was formed proceeding from the Central graded school through the principal streets of the town and back to the school campus. The line of march was preceded by Chief Orr, with the other members of Lancaster's efficient police, in handsome dress uniform and mounted on spirited horses. They kept the crowd back, making the progress of the children easy and presenting an imposing appearance. Martial music was furnished by the Boy Scouts of Lancaster. About 2,000 happy children, all carrying school banners and giving their songs and yells, participated in the parade. When the marchers had returned to the Central school campus, followed by a vast concourse of friends and relatives, they were led in prayer by Rev. E. T. Hodges and then cordially welcomed by C. D. Jones, the new mayor of Lancaster, in the following words:

Speaking in behalf of the people of this city we extend a most cordial welcome to the teachers, pupils, trustees, patrons and friends of the schools of Lancaster county. Our hearts thrill with pride and pleasure at this splendid exhibition of interest in the noble cause of education. While the greater part of the world is groaning under the horrors and desolation of war, our own country is at peace, and our own community, smiling with hope and prosperity, takes pleasure in such generous and friendly rivalry as is manifested here to-day.

Lancaster county has good reason to be proud of her agricultural, manufacturing and commercial progress, but the progress in her educational interests is even more gratifying. The best asset in any country consists of its boys and girls, who are the hope of its future, and whose training in hand and mind and heart is the only permanent basis for its prosperity and happiness. The city is yours, with our good will. May the joy and success of this day be full, and may it inspire all to even greater zeal and achievement.

Miss Laura Therrell, of Heath Springs, made a gracious reply as follows:

On behalf of the teachers of Lancaster county, I wish to thank the mayor of this city for the words of welcome to which we have just listened. Truly, it does us good to know that we receive such a cordial welcome to our own county-seat—the Red Rose city! We are always glad to be here, but most especially so when we are met here in a common interest, and with a single aim—to bring our schools into a closer relationship and to make our school work mean more to the teacher, more to the pupil, and more to the parent.

What a great day this is for the boys and the girls of our county! They have come here representing every school in the county, every grade in the school, and every age of the pupil. For weeks and months, perhaps, they have labored zealously in preparation for these contests. They have looked forward eagerly to the dawn of this day when their mental and their physical strengths shall be tested.

But behind all this zeal—all this enthusiasm—there must be a motive. Most certainly we concede that the hope of a reward is a stimulus to any effort. But we trust that there is not a pupil within our hearing to-day who has entered any one of these contests with the hope of

winning simply because winning means the possessing of a prize valued in dollars and cents. Far be it from any of our teachers to encourage such an idea among her pupils! On the other hand, it behooves our teachers to instill into the minds of her prospective contestants the hope of winning, not solely because there will be material remuneration for their efforts, but because in winning they will know for themselves and will be acknowledged by others to be the masters of the situation.

It is a fact readily conceded by all business thinking people that there is no progress, no real success where there is no competition. We have taken these annual Field Day contests as the methods of competition in our school work. And surely the friends and patrons of our schools throughout the county need not be told in so many words and figures of the progress made in our work since this movement was inaugurated four years ago. But as to the value of such a method of competition, and the extent of the progress resulting therefrom, we shall leave you to judge, when you have attended the contests and inspected the various school exhibits when have been arranged for your entertainment and instruction to-day.

The planning and arranging of these events has required a great deal of energy, and it is to our efficient county organizer, Mrs. W. E. Taylor, with her committee, to whom all credit for the success of the day is due. They have worked diligently and faithfully, and we are gratefully indebted to them.

Again thanking the people of Lancaster for the heartfelt welcome accorded us to-day, and for their hospitality to us in the past, we wish you one and all, a glad and happy day.

Superintendent Wessinger, who presided over the exercises, outlined the program of the day and made several announcements. "America" was sung by a full chorus of all the school children present, led by Prof. W. L. Foster. Afterwards the crowd proceeded to witness the contests and see the school exhibits at the Central school and at the court house.

The declamation contest, in which the boys took part, was held at the court house, while the other literary events will be held in the graded school building. The following is the list of prize winners in all contests as given to us for publication:

Lancaster graded school (Central) scored 54 points, thus winning the banner offered for largest number of points scored by any county school. Craigsville school scored 35 points, thus winning the loving cup offered by Robinson & Lathan for the largest number of points won by any rural school.

Recitation medal, Class A., (gold) won by Freddie Knight, Lancaster Central graded school; second place, Norma Cauten, Dry Creek; Class B., recitation, silver medal, Iva Bailey, Elgin; second place, Ruth Moeller, Lower Camp Creek; Class C., recitation, bronze medal, first place, Flora Todd, New Bethel; second place, Elizabeth Driffin, Riverside.

Declamation.—Class A., gold medal, Grover Jones, Kershaw; second place, Toy Gregory, Lancaster Central graded. Class B., no contestants. (Silver medal). Class C., (bronze medal) Robert Kirk, Jones Cross Roads; second place, Ben Hammond, Rich Hill. Gold U. D. C. medal, Thelma Sovell, Kershaw graded. Silver U. D. C. medal, Iva Bailey, Elgin.

Spelling.—Class A., first place, Ellen Horton, Heath Springs graded; second place, Fay Thompson, Van Wyck. Class B., first place a tie between Beulah Taylor, Tabernacle and Eliza Moore, Lancaster Central graded; second place, Margaret Robinson, Craigsville. Class C., first place, Lizzie Belle Adams, Lancaster No. 2; second place a tie between Sallie Hammond, Heath Springs graded, Chester Hays, New Bethel and Walter Davis, Lancaster Central graded.

Map drawing.—Class A., first place, Sallie Hammond, Heath Springs graded; second place, Monica Carnes, Lancaster Central graded. Class B., first place, Mazie Mackey, Heath Springs graded; second place, Olan Truesdale, Kershaw graded. Class C., first place, Charlie Griffen, Osceola; second place, Edward Croxton, Lancaster graded.

Arithmetic.—Class A., first place, Lela Williams, Kershaw graded; second place, Mary Ellen Blackmon, Lancaster Central graded. Class B., first place, Virginia Cousar, Craigsville; second place, Dorothy Clark, Heath Springs graded. Class C., first place—upper section, Jennie Lee Sherrard, Lancaster Cen. grad.

ENTENTE'S REPLY YIELDS NOTHING

Allies Will Continue to Search Mails

DENIES DOING WRONG

Maintains That Activities Have Been Entirely Within the Rights of the Belligerents.

Washington, April 3.—The government of the entente allies, through Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, to-day presented to Secretary Lansing a joint reply to the protest made by the United States against the seizure, detention and censoring of neutral mails. It declared that no legitimate letter mail had been confiscated nor any treaty right violated but emphatically asserted the allies' intention to continue searching parcel post packages for contraband concealed under postal foldings.

In regard to "true correspondence," the note says, the allied governments "will continue for the present to refrain from seizing and confiscating all such correspondence, letters and dispatches, and that they will make the most rapid transmission of them possible as soon as the genuineness of their character is known."

The vigorous protest at the United States against the treatment of neutral mails was based largely on evidence in possession of the state department that, while mails had not always been searched at sea, mail on neutral ships, upon being taken into British ports for inspection, was removed, detained and otherwise interfered with. The reply does not mention this phase of the controversy. The protest was in the form of a memorandum of instructions to Ambassador Page at London. It stated specifically that the American government was inclined to consider that parcel post shipments were subject to the same treatment accorded goods sent by freight or express. In regard to parcel post shipments the communication says:

"Merchandise shipped under the shape of parcel post must not and shall not be treated differently from the merchandise shipped in other ways."

The allied governments assert their right to search general mail in the following language:

"That the inviolability of postal correspondence, stipulated by convention No. 11 of The Hague treaty, 1907, carries by no means any prejudice to the right of the allied governments to visit and if need be to stop and seize the goods which are falsely deposited in the covers, envelopes or letters contained in the mail sacks."

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

Curtis B. Johnson, of Knoxville, and Walter B. Sullivan, of Columbia, Purchasers.

Charlotte, N. C., April 1.—The Charlotte News to-day announced the purchase of the Charlotte Observer by Curtis B. Johnson, of Knoxville, Tenn., and Walter B. Sullivan, of Columbia, S. C. The property is sold by Woods & Stephens, local bankers, who have owned it in recent years, since the death of J. P. Caldwell and D. A. Tompkins, its former proprietors. The Observer is among the oldest morning dailies in the South, it having been established in 1869, and is a member of the Associated Press.

Mr. Johnson, one of the new owners of the Observer, is publisher and principal owner of the Knoxville Sentinel. He was formerly one of the owners of the Chattanooga News and of the Bristol Courier. Mr. Johnson's new interests in the Observer in no way will affect his connection with the Sentinel. Mr. Sullivan, who to-day becomes the publisher as well as a partner with Mr. Johnson in the ownership of the Observer, has been with the Columbia Record as publisher and part owner of that property for a number of years. He relinquished this interest and will immediately take up his residence in Charlotte.

GERMANS CLOSING IN ON VERDUN FORTRESS

Teutons Gain Footing in Village of Vaux, But Attempt to Debouch Fails

HOLLAND GROWS RESTLESS

Russian Casualties In Recent Big Offensive Placed by the Germans at Fully 140,000.

The Germans gradually are closing in on Verdun, drawing their lines a little closer north-east, where by massed attacks from two directions they are securing a footing in the village of Vaux. French positions between Avocourt and Malancourt continue to be subjected to intense bombardment.

Their successful attempt to penetrate the French lines was produced, according to a Paris report, by an assault that was checked by the French infantry and there was spirited fighting at close quarters between the Crown Prince's forces finally succeeded in pressing into the village.

An attempt by the Germans to follow up their success in obtaining a foothold in the village of Vaux by an infantry attack between Vaux and Fort Dominant, had failed. Preparation for the attack was made by a violent artillery bombardment. The French curtain of fire stopped the infantry assault, Paris says.

Seemingly the situation in Holland with reference to the war is approaching a crisis. Notwithstanding denials that the Dutch government had withdrawn the furlough of soldiers and had requisitioned trains, an unofficial report from the Hague says that the ministers of state have held an extraordinary council. A leading Dutch newspaper declares that the anxiety in Holland is not due to the Tadjikistan affair, but to a more prospective action growing out of the recent Paris conference of the entente allies.

The German infantry has not moved from trenches west of the Meuse since the capture of Malancourt village. The artillery, however, continues active in the Malancourt region, and further attempts by the Germans to continue their drive on the French flanks are considered probable.

The German official statement refers only incidentally to the fighting about Verdun, mentioning only artillery duels there and in the Argonne, with other activity by the big guns on the Aisne front and further north on the line. A British hand grenade attack near St. Eloi, where the Germans recently lost some ground, was repulsed.

Aviators of both sides on the Franco-Belgian front have been busy. Four French machines fell victims to German battle aircraft in various engagements.

After a period of bad weather fighting has been resumed on the Austro-Italian front. The activities are mostly confined to artillery engagements.

Berlin summarizes the recent Russian offensive as barren of results for Emperor Nicholas's forces, while the German headquarters staff to have been at least 140,000. More than 500,000 men were engaged on the Russian side, according to Berlin, and the expenditure of ammunition by the attacking forces is declared to have been on an unprecedented scale for the eastern front.

WILSON WILL OCCUPY NEW JERSEY HOUSE

"Shadow Lawn" to Be Summer Home of President When Congress Adjourns

Washington, April 1.—President Wilson is to occupy "Shadow Lawn," the summer home in New Jersey offered him by the people of the state as soon as congress adjourns, and in case congress is in session during the summer probably will spend week-ends there before adjournment. He has been urged to accept several other places for the summer, but has declined.